

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (currently amended) An air inlet system for a gas cooking apparatus comprising at least one gas burner and a burner box around said gas burner, said air inlet system comprising:

a cooktop configured to cover said burner box and having at least one peripheral vent cut configured to vent outside air into the burner box to provide air for the gas burner, said at least one vent cut defining a recessed corner of said cooktop; and

a vent trim removably attached to said cooktop and covering the vent cut, said vent trim comprising a surface with openings raised above a top surface of the cooktop, an attachment portion overlapping said top surface of the cooktop, and at least one clip overlapping a bottom surface of said cooktop, said vent trim surface defining an underlying cavity, wherein said openings are configured to allow outside air to enter the vent cut through the vent trim.

2. (canceled)

3. (previously presented) A system in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said vent trim further comprises a venting portion overlapping a portion of the cooktop, wherein said attachment portion is sealed to said cooktop in water-tight engagement.

4. (original) A system in accordance with Claim 3 wherein said seal comprises adhesive tape.

5. (currently amended) A system in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said at least one clip is partially positioned within said cavity under said vent trim and said cooktop, said clip fixedly attaching said vent trim to said cooktop.

6. (previously presented) A system in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said corner of said cooking top is a rear corner of said cooking top.

7. (previously presented) A system in accordance with Claim 6 wherein said cooktop has a plurality of vent cuts each disposed at one rear corner.

8. (canceled)

9. (canceled)

10. (currently amended) An air inlet system for a gas cooking apparatus having at least one gas burner and a burner box around said gas burner, said air inlet system comprising:

a cooktop configured to cover said burner box and having at least one peripheral vent cut configured to vent outside air into the burner box to provide air for the gas burner; and

an elongated cover member removably attached to a top face of said cooktop and covering the at least one peripheral vent cut, said cover member having a surface with openings configured to allow outside air to enter the at least one peripheral vent cut through the cover member, said cover member including a raised surface isolating said openings from spills on said cooktop, said raised surface defining an underlying cavity, said cover member comprising at least one tab extending within said cavity to mount said cover member on said top face, and said tab engaging a top surface of said top face.

11. (previously presented) A system in accordance with Claim 10 wherein said cover member extends along an entire side of said top face of said cooktop.

12. (original) A system in accordance with Claim 10 wherein said vent cut is along an edge of said cooktop exclusive of a corner of said cooktop.

13. (original) A system in accordance with Claim 12 wherein said cooktop has a plurality of vent cuts along said edge exclusive of said corner.

14. (previously presented) A system in accordance with Claim 10 further comprising a seal for sealing said elongated cover member in water tight engagement along a side of said top face of said cooktop.

15. (previously presented) A system in accordance with Claim 14 wherein said seal is an adhesive seal.

16. (currently amended) A gas cooking apparatus comprising:

at least one gas burner;

a burner box for said at least one gas burner;

a cooktop configured to cover said burner box and having at least one peripheral vent cut configured to vent outside air into the burner box to provide air for said at least one gas burner, said at least one peripheral vent cut defining a recessed corner of said cooktop; and

a vent trim removably attached to said cooktop and covering said at least one peripheral vent cut, said vent trim comprising a surface with openings raised above a top surface of said cooktop, an attachment portion overlapping said top surface of said cooktop, and at least one clip overlapping a bottom surface of said cooktop, said vent trim surface defining an underlying cavity, wherein said openings are configured to allow outside air to enter said at least one peripheral vent cut through said vent trim.

17. (canceled)

18. (previously presented) An apparatus in accordance with Claim 16 wherein said vent trim further comprises a venting portion overlapping a portion of the cooktop, wherein said attachment portion is sealed to said cooktop in water-tight engagement.

19. (original) An apparatus in accordance with Claim 18 wherein said seal comprises adhesive tape.

20. (previously presented) An apparatus in accordance with Claim 16 wherein said at least one clip is partially positioned within said cavity under said vent trim and said cooktop, said clip fixedly attaching said vent trim to said cooktop.

21. (previously presented) An apparatus in accordance with Claim 16 wherein said corner of said cooking top is a rear corner of said cooking top.

22. (previously presented) An apparatus in accordance with Claim 21 wherein a plurality of said peripheral vent cuts are each disposed at more than one rear corner of said cooktop.

23. (canceled)

24. (canceled)

25. (currently amended) A gas cooking apparatus comprising:

at least one gas burner;

a burner box for said at least one gas burner;

a sealed cooktop configured to cover said burner box and having at least one peripheral vent cut configured to vent outside air into the burner box to provide air for the gas burner; and

an elongated cover member removably attached to a top face of said cooktop and covering the at least one peripheral vent cut, said cover member having a surface with openings configured to allow outside air to enter the at least one peripheral vent cut through the cover member, said cover member including a raised surface isolating said openings from spills on said cooktop, said raised surface defining an underlying cavity, said cover member comprising at least one tab extending within said cavity to mount said cover member on said top face, and said tab engaging a top surface of said top face.

26. (previously presented) An apparatus in accordance with Claim 25 wherein said cover member extends along an entire side of said top face of said cooktop.

27. (original) An apparatus in accordance with Claim 25 wherein said vent cut is along an edge of said cooktop exclusive of a corner of said cooktop.

28. (original) An apparatus in accordance with Claim 27 wherein said cooktop has a plurality of vent cuts along said edge exclusive of said corner.

29. (previously presented) An apparatus in accordance with Claim 25 further comprising an attachment for attaching said elongated cover member in water tight engagement along a side of said top face of said cooktop.

30. (original) An apparatus in accordance with Claim 29 wherein said attachment comprises adhesive tape.